

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. patent application. Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-16 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicant regards as the invention. Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejections of claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,266,819 issued to Chang et al. (*Chang*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,242,967 issued to Iwamuro et al. (*Iwamuro*). Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejections of claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are moot. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 1-16 are not rendered obvious by *Chang* in view of *Iwamuro*.

Claim 1 recites the following:

a bipolar junction transistor in which a base contact region forms a fishbone configuration having a spine with at least one base finger that extends from one side of the spine and at least one base finger that extends from a second side of the spine, wherein an emitter region is adjacent to a periphery of said fishbone configuration.

Chang discloses a self-aligned collector-up heterojunction bipolar transistor (HBT). See col. 1, lines 46-47 and 58-59; col. 2, lines 15-16. Applicants agree with Examiner that *Chang* fails to disclose a bipolar junction transistor in which a base contact region forms a fishbone configuration having a spine with at least one base finger that extends from one side of the spine and at least one base finger that extends from a second side of the spine, wherein an emitter region is adjacent to a periphery of said fishbone configuration. See Office Action, page 3, lines 11-13. However, Examiner cites *Iwamuro* as disclosing these limitations of claim 1. See Office Action, page 3, lines 14-22.

Iwamuro discloses a semiconductor device that includes unipolar transistors and bipolar transistors. See Abstract. The semiconductor device contains, among other things, base electrodes and source electrodes. See Fig. 10; col. 14, line 66 – col. 15, line 1. According to the Examiner, the device in *Iwamuro* includes a base contact region that has a spine. See Office Action, page 3, lines 14-17. Applicants do not agree with the Examiner that the device in *Iwamuro* includes a base contact region that has a spine. However, even if the device in *Iwamuro* includes a base contact region that has a spine, the so-called spine in *Iwamuro* contains base electrodes on one side and source electrodes on the other side. See Fig. 10; col. 14, line 66 – col. 15, line 1. *Iwamuro* does not disclose a bipolar junction transistor in which a base contact region forms a fishbone configuration having a spine with at least one base finger that extends from one side of the spine and at least one base finger that extends from a second side of the spine, wherein an emitter region is adjacent to a periphery of said fishbone configuration.

Thus, *Iwamuro* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Chang*. Therefore, *Chang* in view of *Iwamuro* fails to disclose at least one limitation of claim 1. Consequently, claim 1 is not

rendered obvious by *Chang* in view of *Iwamuro* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

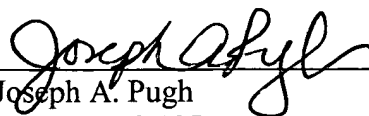
Claims 2-16 depend from claim 1. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 2-16 are not rendered obvious by *Chang* in view of *Iwamuro* for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 2-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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